

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2004. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-16 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 9, 11, and 15-16 have been amended to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention, as well as to correct typographical and grammatical errors, in view of the Examiner's comments, to place the claims in condition for allowance. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 is found throughout the specification, and in particular, in Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C, and on page 6, line 20, to page 7, line 10. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented. Claims 1-16 remain pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims 1 and 9 recite "a latching mechanism" as well as "the latching member." There is insufficient antecedent basis for "the latching member." The Examiner believes that applicant may be using both terms interchangeably and, as such, requests that applicant be consistent in his/her use of claim terminology. Claims 2-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are rejected for at least the same reasons. Likewise, claims 10-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9 and are also rejected for at least the same reasons. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 8 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims recite the limitation "the latch" at the end of each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The terms "latching mechanism" and "latching member" are recited previously in each claim, but not "the latch." Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 9-16 are also objected to because of the following informalities: line 6 of claim 9 recites "the chassis." It is noted, however, that both a "first chassis" and a "second chassis" are recited previously in the claim. The Examiner believes that applicant is referring to the "second chassis" here, since both the "first handle member" and the "second handle member" are coupled thereto in applicant's specification. Appropriate correction is required.

Furthermore, line 5 of claim 9 recites “the blade.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 10-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9 and are objected to for at least the same reasons. Appropriate correction is required.

In response, claims 1, 8, 9, and 16 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions to address the above-referenced objections. Specifically, in claims 1, 8, 9, and 16, the phrase “latching member” and “latch” have been replaced with the phrases “latching mechanism.” Also, in claim 9, the phrase “the chassis” has been replaced with the phrase “the second chassis” and the phrase “the blade” has been replaced with the phrase “a blade.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16 overcome the claim objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1-16 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,669,497 to Westphall et al. (“Westfall” hereinafter). Referring to claims 1 and 9, Westphall discloses a server system and handling system for use with a blade (42), the blade being within a server system, inherently comprising a first chassis (not shown), a plurality of servers (40) located within the first chassis, each of the plurality of servers including a handling system (see Fig. 1) coupled thereto, the handling system comprising a second chassis (not numbered) for holding the blade (42), a first handle member (60) coupled to the second chassis, a second handle member (60) coupled to the chassis and being oppositely disposed to the first handle member, and a latching mechanism (44/56) which holds the first and second handle member (60) in a retracted position when engaged therewith and the latching member (*sic*) when activated causes the first and second handle members to spring out to a point where the first and second handle members can be used to remove the second chassis from the first chassis. See Figs. 1-5 as well as col. 3, lines 66 and 67 and col. 4, lines 1-15. ...

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejections. The present invention provides a handling system for use with a blade. The blade is within a computer system. In accordance with the present invention, the handling system comprises a chassis for holding the blade and a first handle member coupled to the chassis. The handling system includes a second

handle member coupled to the chassis and being oppositely disposed to the first handle member.

Finally, the handling system includes a latching mechanism, which holds the first and second handle member in a retracted position when engaged therewith. The latching mechanism includes actuator button, which when depressed, causes the first and second handle members to spring out to a point where the first and second handle members can be used to remove the chassis from the server system. A method and system in accordance with the present invention limits the handling system profile dimensionally by providing a spring-loaded latching mechanism for the handle members. In so doing, a blade server system is provided that has a smaller footprint than conventional server systems. (Summary and page 6, line 20, to page 7, line 10). Westphall does not teach or suggest these features, as discussed below.

Westphall discloses a self-locking mechanism usable in conjunction with a printed circuit assembly (PCA). The self-locking mechanism generally comprises a central actuator, a pair of sliding members on either side of the actuator and one rotating lock member associated with each sliding member. The actuator, sliding members, and rotating members preferably are mounted to a top edge of a vertically-mounted circuit board thereby forming the printed circuit assembly. The printed circuit assembly can only be removed from its host system after the actuator is turned to an unlocked position and then the sliding members are slid toward the actuator thereby causing the rotating lock members to disengage from their locked position. Turning the actuator also causes a signal to be asserted to the host system to disable power to the PCA. Upon installing the PCA, no power is provided to the PCA until it has been fully installed and the actuator locked.

(Abstract)

However, Westphall does not teach or suggest the “actuator button, which when depressed, causes the first and second handle members to spring out to a point where the first and second handle members can be used to remove the chassis from the server system,” as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 9. The Examiner has referred to the locking actuator 46 (Figure 2) as being the same as the actuator of the present invention. However, the locking actuator of Westphall does not depress. Instead, it turns. Furthermore, when the actuator of Westphall turns, it does not “cause” the rotating lock members to “spring out.” Instead, it “permits the sliding members 56 to be moved along the horizontal H axis toward the locking actuator 46” (Figure 3, and column 3, lines 46-51). Also, the locking actuator of Westphall does not cause the sliding members to move. Instead, Westphall teaches that the horizontal sliding motion is “performed by a person pushing finger contacts 64 in towards the locking actuator” (Figures 1 and 2, and column 3, lines 58-60). Accordingly, in order to unlock the self-locking mechanism of Westphall, the locking actuator must first be turned, and then, each sliding members must be moved to rotate the respective rotating lock members. In accordance with the present invention, a user simply depresses the actuator button, which “causes the first and second handle members to spring out.” Accordingly, the latching mechanism of the present is a much simpler design than the self-locking mechanism of Westphall.

Therefore, Westphall does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 9, and these claims are thus allowable over Westphall.

Dependent claims

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16 depend from amended independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to amended independent claims 1 and 9 apply with equal force to claims 2-8 and 10-16, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9.

Conclusion

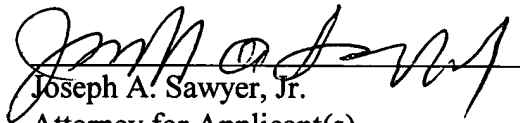
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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